

August 20, 2014

NORTH CENTRAL PROBLEM SOLVING COURTS HOLDS GRADUATION CEREMONY



(left to right) Chief Justice Michael G. Heavican, Tara Price, Ross Tomjack, Judge Francie Riedmann, Tommy Newcombe, Tera Newcombe, Judge Karin Noakes, Judge Tami Schendt, Judge James Orr, Judge Alan Brodbeck, Doug Stanton

The North Central Problem Solving Court met Wednesday afternoon at the Holt County Courthouse in the District Court Room for a graduation celebration for Tera Newcombe.

In attendance for the ceremony was Chief Justice Michael G. Heavican, Judge of the Court of Appeals Francie Riedmann, Judge Alan L. Brodbeck, Judge Karin Noakes and Judge Tami Schendt. The courtroom hosted a capacity crowd for this event.

Judge Francie Riedmann spoke and told those that have graduated from Problem Solving Court that they are an inspiration to all of us. The hard work, effort and changes that they make show those that are in the program that it can be done. She stated that “no change can be made without a challenge” and she commended them for taking a giant step toward a better life. Judge Riedmann ended with this quote, “Failure is not when we fall down, it’s when we refuse to get up.”

Chief Justice Heavican then commended the new graduate and all of those that have went through Problem Solving Court. He presented the new graduate with a medallion to symbolize her hard work and new beginning.

Judge Alan Brodbeck then spoke and emphasized the importance of the this program and that it gives those involved something you rarely get and that is a second chance. Brodbeck told the graduate to use this second chance and to “always have a plan, have something to look forward to.”

Tera Newcombe Graduates From North Central Problem Solving Court

Tera has had a long journey with the North Central Problem Solving Court and one the team was not sure she was going to conquer since beginning in July of 2010. Shortly after being admitted to the Problem Solving Court, Tera chose to take off for a while and did not participate in the program as required. When she returned, the team had decided to terminate her participation in the Problem Solving Court, however, there was one person who saw something everyone else did not, and this was Judge Mark Kozisek. Judge Kozisek felt she needed to continue her participation and as much as everyone thought it was a mistake she was allowed to continue.

Tera had her ups and downs in the program, but endured and persevered through it all. She attended inpatient treatment, long term residential treatment, cognitive groups, and outpatient treatment, along with utilizing community support workers. Even after Tera completed all of these there were still times when it was in question as to whether or not she would complete the program.

It took a while, as you can tell, almost four years, however, something changed in Tera along the way. Somewhere along the line, Tera decided she did not need to utilize illegal drugs to help her cope with situations. Her anxiety levels began to diminish and she was using her coping skills more and more to deal with issues which came her way. Tera went from a person who barely spoke, smiled, or held her head up to speak to you, to becoming more independent, self-confident, and she now smiles. While on her journey Tera went from being insecure to secure, to the point, she now talks in front of groups involved within the Twelve Step Fellowship community. Tera enrolled at Northeast Community College in Norfolk in the fall of 2013 and is working on her human services degree. While enrolled at Northeast Tera has been on the President's List every semester since she enrolled, which requires a student to obtain a 4.0 GPA. She also is working part time at the WELL (Women's Empowering Life Line) in Norfolk, Nebraska. While being involved in the Problem Solving Court, Tera married her husband, Tommy, and today they celebrate their fourth wedding anniversary.

Tera Newcombe we congratulate you on this great accomplishment and wish the best for you.

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